

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 0857 ACTION SECSTATE ATHENS
DAMASCUS NICOSIA INFO AMMAN CAIRO DTD 28 FEB

QTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CGEN, LE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR RESUMPTION OF FULL CONSULAR SERVICES

1. ONE CONSULAR OFFICER (STAPLETON) HAS ALREADY RETURNED
TO BEIRUT. SECOND (RUSSELL) WILL ARRIVE FEB 27. THIRD
(BUDIET) IS EXPECTED IN MID-MARCH. FULL SERVICES FOR
AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE BEING PROVIDED. FULL NIV SERVICES
WERE RESUMED ON FEB 22.

2. EMBASSY PROPOSES RESUME FULL IV SERVICES APR 1, SUBJECT
TO CONDITIONS OUTLINED BELOW. FOLLOWING IS SCHEDULE FOR
RETURN OF UNCLASSIFIED VISA FILES AND RESTAFFING VISA
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SECTION WITH LOCAL EMPLOYEES NOW ON TDY IN ANTICIPATION
THIS DEVELOPMENT. ADDRESSEES MUST APPRECIATE THAT
SCHEDULE IS OF COURSE DEPENDENT ON CONTINUING
IMPROVEMENT IN SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON AND
CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THREE CONSULAR OFFICERS.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT AND ATHENS: EMBASSY BELIEVES

UNCLASSIFIED BEIRUT VISA FILES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN SECTION PRIOR TO APRIL 1 IF IV SERVICES TO BE RESUMED. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN RETURN OF FILES TO BEIRUT AS SOON AS THEY CAN BE PACKED AND SHIPPED. BEIRUT FSL'S ANSERIAN AND KABBANI SHOULD RETURN BEIRUT AS SOON AS PACKING OF FILES COMPLETE. ONCE UNCLASSIFIED FILES ARE BACK, WE INTEND TO REQUEST RETURN OF CLASSIFIED VISA FILES, ASSUMING SECURITY SITUATION CONTINUES TO IMPROVE.

4. IF PRE-JUNE 1967 BAGHDAD UNCLASSIFIED VISA FILES STILL IN ATHENS, BELIEVE THESE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SENT BEIRUT SINCE IN VIEW UNSETTLED CONDITIONS IN LEBANON, IT IS MOST UNLIKELY RESIDENTS OF IRAQ WILL WISH PURSUE IV CASES HERE.

5. FOR NICOSIA: SERVICES OF FSL APOSHIAN REQUIRED ONCE AGAIN IN BEIRUT. REQUEST RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

FOR DAMASCUS: EXPECT MAJOR PART LEBANESE IV DEMAND WILL CONTINUE BE PROCESSED IN DAMASCUS UNTIL IV SERVICES RESUMED IN BEIRUT IN APRIL. PROPOSE THEREFORE FSL'S JAMAL AND HANNAOUI REMAIN ON TDY DAMASCUS UNTIL LATE MARCH. WOULD APPRECIATE IF BOTH COULD BE RELEASED FOR RETURN WORK BEIRUT MARCH 28.

7. FOR THE DEPARTMENT: CONSULAR OFFICER STAPLETON, WHO HAS NOT HAD HOME LEAVE SINCE HIS INITIAL ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT IN APRIL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1973, WOULD LIKE TO DEPART ON REASSIGNMENT O/A APRIL 1, AFTER OVERLAP WITH BUDEIT. WE UNDERSTAND STAPLETON'S REPLACEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED. SINCE PRESENCE OF THREE CONSULAR OFFICERS IS ESSENTIAL FOR OPERATION OF FULL CONSULAR SERVICES, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION THAT STAPLETON'S REPLACEMENT CAN ARRIVE IN 4/77. SINCE STAPLETON'S NEXT ASSIGNMENT WILL BE IN DEPT, REQUEST EXCEPTION TO 15-DAY LIMITATION ON H/L. (HE HAS ABOUT 80 DAYS ACCUMULATED.)

8. REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES CONFIRM AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSED SCHEDULE.
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